

## Biden to nominate Yellen, highlight diversity on econ team

Associated Press

**WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)** — President-elect Joe Biden on Monday announced his senior economic team, including his plans to nominate the first woman to head the Treasury Department as well as several liberal economists and policy specialists who established their credentials during the previous two Democratic administrations.

In a statement, Biden said he would nominate Janet Yellen, the former Federal Reserve chair, to lead the Treasury Department, and former Clinton and Obama adviser Neera Tanden to serve as director of the Office of Management and Budget. He also named Wally Adeyemo, a former Obama administration official and the first CEO of the former president's nonprofit foundation, as his nominee for deputy treasury secretary. He also unveiled his White House economic team, consisting of economists Cecilia Rouse, Jared Bernstein and Heather Boushey.

Biden, who has placed a premium on diversity in his selection of Cabinet nominees and key advisers, is looking to notch a few firsts with his economic team selections. Yellen would be the first woman to lead the Treasury Department and Adeyemo the first Black deputy secretary. Tanden would be the first woman of color to lead OMB and Rouse the first woman of color to chair the Council of Economic Advisers.

Continued on Page 2



In this Aug. 14, 2019, file photo former Fed Chair Janet Yellen speaks with FOX Business Network guest anchor Jon Hilsenrath in the Fox Washington bureau in Washington.

Associated Press



Sharing Menu \$50 per couple



2 appetizers



1 Main dish



1 Dessert

J.E. Irausquin Blvd 64 - Eagle Beach, Aruba - www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com - Closed Mon  
Info: + 297 525 4000 (Ext 172) / 588 3958 - reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com



VISIT OUR  
MODEL  
HOME

tuscanyresidencearuba.com  
or call: +297 733 2424



ONLY 2 LEFT



Luxury Townhouses, - price \$ 347,000  
1,506 sq.ft - 3 bedrooms, - 2.5 bathrooms  
Built on Property land - HOA: \$200/mth



Your Shopping, Dining and  
Entertainment Center



Located in front of Holiday Inn, walking distance from high rise hotels. Shops and Restaurants are open till 9PM



## Biden to nominate Yellen, highlight diversity on econ team

"As we get to work to control the virus, this is the team that will deliver immediate economic relief for the American people during this economic crisis and help us build our economy back better than ever," Biden said in a statement. Yellen became Federal Reserve chair in 2014 when the economy was still recovering from the devastating Great Recession. In the late 1990s, she was President Bill Clinton's top economic adviser during the Asian financial crisis. Under Biden she would lead the Treasury Department with the economy in the grip of a surging pandemic. If confirmed, Yellen would become the first woman to lead the Treasury Department in its nearly 232-year history. She would inherit an economy with still-high unemployment, escalating threats to small businesses and signs that consumers are retrenching as the pandemic restricts or discourages spending. Tanden, the president and CEO of the liberal think tank Center for American Progress, has been tapped to serve as the director of

the Office of Management and Budget. She was the director of domestic policy for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign, but she first made her mark in the Clinton orbit. She served as policy director for Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. Before that, she served as legislative director in Clinton's Senate office and deputy campaign manager and issues director for Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign. Tanden was a senior policy adviser in the Bill Clinton administration. If confirmed, she would be the first woman of color and the first South Asian woman to lead the OMB, the agency that oversees the federal budget. But Senate Republicans are signaling they'll oppose confirmation. Late Sunday a spokesman for GOP Sen. John Cornyn of Texas tweeted that Tanden "stands zero chance of being confirmed." And Josh Holmes, a political adviser to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, tweeted that confirmation was likely doomed. Republicans hold the edge in the cur-



**Neera Tanden, president of Center for American Progress, speaks during an introduction for New Start New Jersey at NJIT in Newark, NJ, Monday, Nov. 10, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

rent Senate, although next year's majority won't be decided until Jan. 5 runoffs in two races involving GOP incumbents in Georgia. Brian Deese, a former senior economic adviser in the Obama administration and now the managing director and global head of sustainable investing at

BlackRock, is expected to be named director of the White House National Economic Council, according to a person familiar with transition plans who was not authorized to speak on the matter. Deese worked on the auto bailout and environmental issues in the Obama White

House, where he held the title of deputy director of both the NEC and the OMB Cecilia Rouse, a labor economist and head of Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, is Biden's pick to serve as chairwoman of the Council of Economic Advisers. She served on the CEA from 2009 to 2011, and served on the NEC from 1998 to 1999 in the Clinton administration. Notably, she organized a letter earlier this year signed by more than 100 economists calling for more government action to mitigate the fallout for Americans caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Rouse, who is Black, would be the first woman of color to chair the CEA.

Biden also named Heather Boushey, the president and CEO of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, and Jared Bernstein, who served as an economic adviser to Biden during the Obama administration, to serve on the council. Both Boushey and Bernstein advised Biden during the presidential campaign. □

## FCC Chairman Ajit Pai to leave telecom agency on January 20



**In this June 24, 2020 file photo, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai testifies during a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission on Capitol Hill in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

**By TALI ARBEL**  
**AP Technology Writer**

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, a Republican, says he is leaving the telecommunications regulator on Inau-

guration Day. President-elect Joe Biden will choose a new Democratic head for the agency. A new administration typically picks a new chairman. Pai has presided over a

contentious FCC over the last four years. He undid net neutrality rules that barred internet service providers like Comcast and AT&T from favoring some types of online traffic over others in 2017 and championed other deregulatory efforts. He has also worked to free up spectrum for cellphone companies so they can roll out 5G, the next-generation wireless standard that promises faster speeds, and cracked down on Chinese telecom companies as national security threats. The incoming FCC is likely to try to reinstate net neutrality rules and focus on closing the "digital divide," getting internet service to Americans who don't have it because it's not available or they can't afford it. It's likely not to act on a recent directive from the Trump administration to

look at Section 230 in an effort to regulate social media companies like Facebook and Twitter. Section 230 shields internet companies from lawsuits about posts by users. The Trump administration has gone after the law, alleging with no evidence that social networks censor conservatives. The FCC has three commissioners of the majority party and two in the minority party. It currently has two Democratic commissioners, Jessica Rosenworcel and Geoffrey Starks, one of whom Biden could choose to elevate to chairman or choose someone from outside the agency. Pai and another Republican commissioner, Michael O'Rielly, are leaving the agency. O'Rielly is leaving because the White House pulled his

nomination after he said he wasn't sure the agency had authority on Section 230. Congress is weighing the nomination of another Republican, Nathan Simington.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve at the Federal Communications Commission," Pai said in a statement.

"To be the first Asian-American to chair the FCC has been a particular privilege. As I often say: only in America." □





# Supreme Court seems skeptical of Trump's census plan

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court sounded skeptical Monday that President Donald Trump could categorically exclude people living in the country illegally from the population count used to allot seats among the states in the House of Representatives. But it also appeared possible that the justices could avoid a final ruling on the issue until they know how broadly the Trump administration acts in its final days in office and whether the division of House seats is affected.

No president has tried to do what Trump outlined in a memo in July — remove millions of noncitizens from the once-a-decade head count of the U.S. population that determines how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives, as well as the allocation of some federal funding.

The court, meeting by telephone because of the coronavirus pandemic, heard arguments in its second case in two years related to the 2020 census and immigrants.

The census already is facing novel questions over deadlines, data quality and politics, including whether the incoming Biden administration would do anything to try to reverse decisions



In this Nov. 2, 2020, file photo an American flag waves in front of the Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill in Washington.

made under Trump. One possibility outlined by acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall, Trump's top Supreme Court lawyer, is that Trump might try to leave out of the count people who are in immigration detention or those who have been ordered to leave the country.

But under questioning from Justice Elena Kagan, Wall would not rule out larger categories of immigrants, including those who have protection from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programs.

"We can't be certain at this

point, and we don't know what the president will decide to do with respect to that," Wall said.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett was among several members of the court who said the administration's argument for broad discretion in deciding whom to exclude is troublesome because "a lot of the historical evidence and long-standing practice really cuts against your position."

The court decided to hear the case on a fast track, based on the administration's plea for a decision by early January, when Trump is required by law to trans-

mit census numbers to Congress. The Census Bureau is supposed to send the data to Trump by Dec. 31.

But Wall told the court Monday, "We are not currently on pace to send the report to the president by the year-end statutory deadline." He said census officials told him they hope some data is available in January.

A delay of even three weeks would mean the Census Bureau would be turning in the numbers to a new president. President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20.

Several conservative jus-

tices suggested that the better course for the court would be to avoid ruling immediately on lawsuits filed by New York and other Democratic-led states as well as immigration advocates because Trump's intentions are speculative at this point.

"Mr. Ho, if the additional information would be beneficial in a few weeks, wouldn't it be beneficial to actually resolving this case? As the questioning seems to suggest, there's some difficulty in assessing exactly what information will be available and what that information will be," Justice Clarence Thomas said to Dale Ho, the American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing immigration groups.

The court could simply sit on the case in front of it to see what happens, or dismiss it as premature. The second option would allow Trump to move forward with his plan and lead inevitably to a new lawsuit.

Trump has a mixed record at the high court on immigration.

The justices upheld his ban on travel to the U.S. by residents of some largely Muslim countries. But the court shot down his attempt to end the DACA program and blocked his bid to add a citizenship question to the census for the first time in 70 years. □

## Jared Kushner to travel to Saudi Arabia, Qatar this week

By **MATTHEW LEE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner will travel to Saudi Arabia and Qatar this week as part of negotiations to end a longtime boycott of Qatar.

Kushner, along with Mideast envoy Avi Berkowitz and former special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, will try to negotiate with Gulf leaders over the dispute, a White House official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as the official was not authorized to publicly discuss the trip.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar in June 2017 as part of a wider political dispute over Doha's

support of Islamists, its relationship with Iran and other matters. The four countries also launched an economic boycott, stopping Qatar Airways flights from using their airspace, closing off the small country's sole land border with Saudi Arabia and blocking its ships from using their ports.

Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The country is also home to the sprawling Al-Udeid Air Base, which hosts some 10,000 American troops and the forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

This may be Kushner's last trip to the region as President Donald Trump has only a few more weeks in office. President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated Jan. 20. □



President Donald Trump's White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump, the daughter of President Trump, walk on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, after stepping off Marine One upon returning from Camp David.

**Associated Press**



## S.C. officials say they can't obtain drugs by Friday execution

By MICHELLE LIU

Associated Press/Report for America

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) —

South Carolina prison officials say they have to delay an execution scheduled for Friday because they won't be able to obtain the necessary lethal injection drugs. An attorney for the state Department of Corrections wrote in a letter to the South Carolina Supreme Court last week that the agency cannot carry out the execution of Richard Bernard Moore due to the lack of drugs, which it has not had stocked since 2013. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter. The court scheduled Moore's execution after he exhausted his federal appeals this month. Moore, 55, has spent nearly two decades on death row following his conviction for the 1999 killing of a convenience store clerk in Spartanburg County. He would be the first person executed in South Carolina in nearly a decade.

The state's usual injection protocol calls for three drugs: pentobarbital, pan-



This undated file photo provided on July 11, 2019, by the South Carolina Department of Corrections shows the new death row at Broad River Correctional Institution in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

curonium bromide and potassium chloride. But the corrections agency has said it has not had the drugs in stock since 2013, when its last supplies expired. The agency has previously said it reserves the right to execute Moore with a single lethal dose of the sedative pentobarbital.

Lindsey Vann, one of

Moore's attorneys, called the delay "unprecedented" on Monday, adding that she wasn't aware of any other execution in South Carolina history requiring such a delay due to a lack of drugs.

In 2017, corrections officials said they could not carry out the execution order of Bobby Wayne Stone with-

out the appropriate drugs. At the time, however, Stone had not yet exhausted his appeals in court.

Prison officials say that per state law, Moore must be executed by lethal injection by default because he did not choose between lethal injection and electrocution by a deadline earlier this month. Moore's

attorneys say he did not make a decision because the agency is not being transparent with its execution protocols. Moore's legal team is also seeking to block the execution in federal court.

Securing lethal injection drugs has become an increasingly difficult task in the U.S. as drug manufacturers have shied away from selling to states under pressure from anti-death penalty activists. Corrections chief Bryan Stirling, along with the governor and attorney general, have advocated for a bill to shield the identities of manufacturers who provide such drugs.

State lawmakers have also mulled in recent years a bill to require death row prisoners to die by electric chair if lethal injection is not available. Moore is one of 37 people, all men, currently on South Carolina's death row. Some prosecutors have sought the death penalty less often in recent years, citing the state's inability to carry out executions.

South Carolina's last execution was in 2011. □

## Navy will decommission warship damaged in suspected arson



In this July 12, 2020 file photo fire crews spray water from the dock onto the side of the USS Bonhomme Richard, in San Diego.

Associated Press

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Navy said Monday that it will decommission a warship docked off San Diego after suspected arson this summer caused extensive damage, making it too expensive to restore.

Fully repairing the USS Bonhomme Richard to war-

fighting capabilities would cost \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion and take five to seven years, said Rear Adm. Eric H. Ver Hage of the Navy Regional Maintenance Center.

The amphibious assault ship burned for more than four days in July and was the Navy's worst U.S. warship fire outside of combat in re-

cent memory. The ship was left with extensive structural, electrical and mechanical damage.

Restoring it for another use, perhaps as a hospital, would take almost as long as full restoration and cost \$1 billion.

Decommissioning the ship will take nine months to a year and cost \$30 million, Ver Hage said.

Navy officials and industry experts studied the cost and schedule with an eye toward "the art of the possible," Ver Hage told reporters. They decided it wasn't worth the money to restore, considering the impact it would have on other spending priorities.

"The dollars definitely would disrupt our strategy for investment," he said.

Arson is suspected as the cause of the July 12 fire, and a U.S. Navy sailor was questioned as a potential

suspect, a senior defense official said in late August. The sailor was questioned as part of the investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, an official with knowledge of the investigation said in August. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public. The sailor was not detained.

Ver Hage declined to comment Monday on the status of several investigations and he didn't give a timeline for their completion, saying they "will conclude when the time is right."

Ver Hage said about 60% of the ship would likely need to be replaced to have it fully restored, including the flight deck, mast and many levels directly below the flight deck.

The ship will likely be decommissioned in San Diego. Crew members will be notified of reassignment.

The Bonhomme Richard was nearing the end of a two-year upgrade estimated to cost \$250 million when the fire started.

About 160 sailors and officers were on board when the flames sent up a huge plume of dark smoke from the 840-foot (256-meter) amphibious assault vessel, which had been docked at Naval Base San Diego while undergoing the upgrade.

Firefighters attacked the flames inside the ship while firefighting vessels with water cannons directed streams of seawater into the ship and helicopters made water drops.

More than 60 sailors and civilians were treated for minor injuries, heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation. □



# NATO mulls Afghan dilemma as U.S. draws down, attacks mount

By **LORNE COOK**

**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday that the military alliance is grappling with a dilemma over its future in Afghanistan, as the United States starts pulling troops out while attacks by the Taliban and extremist groups mount.

More than 17 years after taking the lead on international security efforts in Afghanistan, NATO now has around 11,000 troops from dozens of nations there helping to train and advise the national security forces. Most of the personnel are from Europe and other NATO partner countries. But the alliance relies heavily on the United States armed forces for air support, transport and logistics. European allies would struggle even to leave the country without U.S. help, and President Donald Trump's decision to pull almost half the U.S. troops out by mid-January leaves NATO in a bind.

"We face a difficult dilemma. Whether to leave, and risk that Afghanistan becomes once again a safe haven for international terrorists. Or stay, and risk a longer mission, with renewed violence," Stoltenberg told reporters on



In this Friday, Sept. 11, 2020 file photo, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg speaks during a ceremony marking the 19th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, at NATO headquarters in Brussels. Associated Press

the eve of a videoconference between NATO foreign ministers. Under a peace deal between the United States and the Taliban — without the involvement of other NATO allies or the Afghan government — all foreign troops should leave Afghanistan by May 1 if security conditions on the ground permit.

"Whatever path we choose, it is important that we do so together, in a coordinated and deliberate way," Stoltenberg said, on the eve of a videoconference between NATO

foreign ministers where the organization's most ambitious operation ever will be high on the agenda.

Trump's unilateral decision to leave only 2,500 U.S. troops with the mission had allied military planners scrambling, as they tried to work out whether NATO could continue to operate in Kabul, and other major cities. NATO diplomats say that for now they have enough "enablers" to get the job done.

Afghan officials also fear that a rapid reduction in American

troops could strengthen the Taliban's negotiating position. NATO defense ministers are likely to make a final decision about the future of the Resolute Support Mission in February, after President-elect Joe Biden takes office. European diplomats expect the tone to change under Biden, but probably not the U.S. intention to leave Afghanistan as soon as possible.

The uncertainty comes amid a sharp rise in violence this year and a surge of attacks by the Taliban against the belea-

guered Afghan security forces since the start of peace talks in September. Islamic State militants have also struck this month, notably in a horrific attack on Kabul University that killed 22 people, most of them students.

"We have seen over the last months and weeks several attacks," Stoltenberg said. "Some are conducted by Taliban, some attacks ISIS claimed responsibility for. But what we know is that the Taliban is responsible for attacks and the level of violence is far too high."

Even U.S. Ambassador to NATO Kay Bailey Hutchison said: "We do not think the Taliban is keeping its word under the agreement. The violence is too high, and the Afghan people and the Afghan soldiers have paid a heavy price."

But despite the surge in violence, and deep uncertainty cause by the U.S. drawdown, the peace agreement appears to be an opportunity too good for NATO to miss.

"We now see an historic opportunity for peace. It is fragile, but it must be seized," Stoltenberg said. "We see an unpredictable and difficult military and political situation. But at least there are now talks." □

# Scottish leader says she could seek 2021 independence vote

By **JILL LAWLESS**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Scotland's leader said Monday that she hopes to hold an independence referendum as soon as next year, setting up a political showdown with a U.K. government that refuses to countenance another secession vote. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she would campaign in the May 2021 Scottish Parliament election for a mandate to hold a vote on independence "in the early part of the new parliament," which will run from 2021 to 2025. In a speech to a conference of her Scottish National Party — held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic — Sturgeon said Scotland had a right to choose in-

dependence, "if a majority of us want it." "That inalienable right of self-determination cannot, and will not, be subject to a Westminster veto," she said, referring to the U.K. government in London. Scotland voted to remain in the U.K. by a margin of 55%-45% in a 2014 independence referendum that was billed as a once-in-a-generation event. A new binding referendum requires the U.K. government's approval, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson insists he'll say no. "The people of Scotland had a vote on this (in 2014), and they voted to remain part of the United Kingdom," Johnson spokesman Jamie Davies said Monday.

But Sturgeon's SNP, which leads the government in Ed-

inburgh, says Brexit has transformed the situation by dragging Scotland out of the European Union against its will. A narrow majority of U.K. voters opted to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum, but a large majority in Scotland voted to stay. Recent opinion polls suggest a majority of Scots now favor independence from the U.K., with Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic boosting support for Scotland going its own way. Sturgeon's calm, clear communication style during the pandemic has been widely praised, with many contrasting it to Johnson's more ramshackle approach — though the U.K. and Scottish governments have followed broadly similar public health policies, and



In this Tuesday, June 11, 2019 file photo, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon speaks during an event in Brussels. Associated Press

both countries have seen high death tolls.

The whole of the U.K. has recorded more than 58,000 coronavirus-related deaths, the highest toll in Europe.

Sturgeon has not said what

she will do if the U.K. government refuses to grant a referendum, though some pro-independence campaigners have suggested she could seek a ruling from the U.K. Supreme Court. □



## Turkish research ship in port after Mediterranean survey

By ZEYNEP BILGINSOY

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — The Turkish research vessel at the heart of a Mediterranean Sea energy dispute between Turkey and Greece is back in port in an apparent bid to ease tensions ahead of a European Union summit where potential sanctions against Ankara will be discussed.

In a tweet Monday, Turkey's energy ministry said the Oruc Reis had returned to port in Antalya after completing seismic research in the Demre field. Ship tracker MarineTraffic showed the survey ship had docked.

Tensions between the two neighbors and nominal NATO allies escalated over the summer with a military build-up after Turkey sent the survey ship, escorted by navy frigates, into disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean.

The move prompted Greece to also send its warships, and both countries conducted military exercises to assert their claims. NATO intervened, organizing technical talks between the two countries' militaries to prevent a potential armed conflict. NATO foreign ministers are scheduled to meet Dec 1-2.

NATO Secretary General



In this Sept. 27, 2020 file photo, Turkey's research vessel Oruc Reis is anchored off the coast of Antalya on the Mediterranean Sea in Turkey.

Jens Stoltenberg said he was still concerned with the situation and was working to reduce tensions by keeping lines of communication open, cancelling military drills and other measures.

"When the ship Oruc Reis is in port, as it is from today as far as I have been informed, that helps to reduce tensions and makes it easier to make progress also on deconfliction," Stoltenberg told a news conference.

Ankara says Greece and the Greek Cypriot-led government on war-divided Cyprus are impinging on

the energy rights of Turkey and breakaway Turkish Cypriots by setting maritime boundaries according to their own interests and attempting to exclude Turkey from potential oil and gas reserves.

Turkey says maritime boundaries for hydrocarbon resources should be calculated from the mainland. Greece invokes international law to say the continental shelves of its islands dotting the Mediterranean should be included within its energy zone.

The Cypriot government also accuses Turkey of un-

lawfully carrying out drilling and exploratory work in waters where it claims exclusive economic rights.

The competing claims have led to a diplomatic crisis and aggressive rhetoric. EU-members Greece and Cyprus, along with France, have called for sanctions on Turkey.

The Oruc Reis was pulled back to port in September for maintenance and resupply. Turkish officials said it was withdrawn from Greek-claimed waters to give diplomacy a chance. It was redeployed in October after Turkish President

Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused Athens of failing to fulfill promises.

Turkey's defense minister Hulusi Akar on Monday again accused Greece of "stubbornly avoiding dialogue and looking for solutions elsewhere."

EU leaders are meeting for a summit on Dec. 10-11 and are expected to discuss the dispute and possible sanctions.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel hailed the return of the Oruc Reis to port as a "good sign," but noted that Turkey was still carrying out drilling activities off Cyprus.

Separately, Greece, Egypt, Cyprus are conducting sea and air military drills in waters off Alexandria, Egypt, through Sunday. The Medusa exercise has been a component of the three countries' cooperation pact since 2017, and is joined this year by France and the United Arab Emirates.

Greece and Cyprus have signed separate maritime border agreements with Egypt and all three countries have condemned Turkey's actions in the Mediterranean. They dismiss a similar deal that Ankara signed with Libya's Tripoli-based government as "legally invalid." □

## Spain dismantles migrants' 'dock of shame' in Canary Islands



A view of the now empty makeshift migrant camp located at the Arguineguin port on the southwestern coast of the Gran Canaria island, Spain on Monday Nov. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

JAVIER FERGO

**ARGUINEGUIN, Spain (AP)**

— Spanish authorities have dismantled a makeshift camp for migrant processing that for over three months was known as the "dock of shame" for holding thousands of Africans in squalor after they arrived in

the Canary Islands.

The Spanish government's delegation in the Atlantic Ocean archipelago confirmed Monday that all the 830 people held Friday at the Arguineguin dock, on the southwestern coast of Gran Canaria Island, had been moved out by Sun-

day night to other facilities. The last to leave were 27 migrants who have tested positive for coronavirus and were placed in isolation.

Assisted by Red Cross volunteers, most of the 14,000 migrants arriving since late August have spent time at the Arguineguin dock. In November, nearly 2,600 people slept, ate and were tested in the makeshift facility under police watch after arriving on maritime rescue boats.

The facility had been criticized by human rights organizations and Spain's ombudsman for its poor conditions. Many migrants were left to sleep with just a blanket and no showers. Potential asylum-seekers had no proper access to

legal advice and some people were held for much longer than the three days that the law allows.

All migrants have been relocated to makeshift military facilities with better infrastructure and hotels across Gran Canaria and other islands, Anselmo Pestana, the Spanish government delegate in the archipelago, told reporters on Monday.

The Spanish Atlantic Ocean archipelago off the west coast of Africa is better known for its beaches, volcanic landscapes and other natural wonders that in non-coronavirus times attracted millions of visitors from European countries. Spain's left-wing ruling government coalition, led

by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, is trying to reactivate deportations to Morocco, where most of the migrants are coming from, and other Western African countries. It has transferred to the Spanish mainland only a few of the migrants, mostly women, minors and a reduced number of asylum-seekers.

More than 20,000 people seeking a better life have arrived so far this year in the Spanish archipelago, up from 1,500 in the same period of 2019. According to the International Organization for Migration, at least 500 people have died while attempting to reach the islands that they see as a stepping stone into Europe. □



## Artists say Cuba government agrees to dialogue, tolerance

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ

Associated Press

**HAVANA (AP)** — A group of Cuban artists and intellectuals say they won an unusual government vow of greater tolerance for independent art on Saturday after a demonstration in front of the Culture Ministry. About 20 artists had gathered Friday and the crowd grew to 200 by late night, when Vice Minister Fernando Rojas and the directors of several associations affiliated with the governing Communist Party met with delegates of the demonstrators until after midnight. The officials agreed to talks on "an agenda of multiple topics with proposals by both sides," said writer Katherine Bisquet. In addition, "We will be able to meet without being harassed in independent spaces. There is a truce for independent spaces."

The demonstration, and official willingness to deal with the participants is unusual in a country whose government historically has had little tolerance for open protest, tends to label dissenters as tools of its enemies abroad and has



Young artists protest in front of the doors of the Ministry of Culture, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

arrested hundreds of them. But those who turned up at Friday's demonstration included people with a long history working in the government-run culture sector, including actor Jorge Perugurría, a star of the film "Strawberry and Chocolate," director Fernando Pérez, playwright Yunió García and feminist activist Dianelys Alfonso.

There were moments of tension on Saturday when police surrounded the plaza where the demonstra-

tion took place and power went off for a time in area, though it wasn't clear if that was related to the demonstration.

"It is time for dialogue and I think it is important for you young people to be heard, and we are going to work for that," Perugurría said before entering to meet with the authorities.

"The thing that struck me most was the diversity of people from the cultural, political and social fields in Cuba who have been

uniting ... (on) a series of demands," said Michael Bustamante, a specialist in Latin American history at Florida International University. He said that the demands "are very general" and said "not everybody will agree on how to proceed." Even so, "In some ways it is unprecedented in recent history" in Cuba, he said, noting that it comes at a complex time for the island,

which is suffering through the pandemic, an economic crisis and impending economic reforms, as well as waiting to what policies the upcoming U.S. administration will adopt toward Cuba.

The demonstration followed a Thursday night raid on a house where a group of activist artists were staging a sort of sit-in to demand the release of rapper Denis Solís, who had been sentenced for prison for insulting a police officer. Officials said they acted to enforce COVID-19 health restrictions because one of those inside had recently returned from the United States and was violating the required quarantine period.

None of those removed from the house was reported arrested.

Officials earlier had described the San Isidro group at the house as lacking true artistic merit.

But numerous well-known artists and performers had publicly urged the government to show tolerance and hold a dialogue with the group. □

## Sri Lankan prison riot leaves 8 inmates dead, 59 injured



A family member of an inmate pleads lying at the feet of a policeman as she seeks information on the condition of her relative outside the Mahara prison complex following an overnight unrest in Mahara, outskirts of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Nov. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

By BHARATHA MALLA-WARACHI

Associated Press

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** — Eight inmates were killed and 59 others were injured when guards opened fire to control a riot at a prison

on the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital, officials said Monday. Two guards were critically injured, they said. Pandemic-related unrest has been growing in Sri Lanka's overcrowded prisons. Inmates have staged

protests in recent weeks at several prisons as the number of coronavirus cases surges in the facilities.

Police spokesman Ajith Rohana said inmates created "unrest" Sunday at Mahara prison, about 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Colombo, and officials attempted to control the situation.

But "the unrest situation turned into a prison riot," he said, adding that prisoners tried to take control of the prison and hundreds attempted to escape.

The inmates "reportedly destroyed most of the property including offices inside the prison," Rohana said.

The guards opened fire, and the clash left eight inmates dead and 59 injured, he said. Two prison officers were critically injured. □




**Open:** Thursday through Monday  
**From:** 5:30PM to 9:00PM  
**Tel:** 583-2666  
**Website:** www.pinchosaruba.com






**Open:** Daily for Lunch and Dinner  
**From:** 12:00PM (noon) to 9:00PM  
**Tel:** 587-2667  
**Website:** www.thewestdeck.com





# LOCAL



## Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) Accepts Major International Travel Insurance Plans



**NOORD** - It is your worst nightmare to experience health issues during your relaxing holidays where immediate urgent attention is required for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries. At Urgent Care Aruba, we believe that everyone deserves access to the highest quality health-care available. That is why we accept most major in-

ternational travel insurance plan.

UCA has had a positive experience with their patients when they seek reimbursement back home for self-pay care. We recommend for you to consult with your health insurance provider for detailed coverage information about your current plan since individual

plans may differ. Depending on your plan, you may be responsible for co-payments, co-insurance, or deductibles. If your plan is not currently accepted, UCA provides affordable self-pay rates. A valid insurance card/ documentation, photo ID and credit or debit card number is required for persons presenting with insurance. Eligibility will be verified with your insurance carrier electronically at the time of your visit. The credit card number will be used to secure your account towards future balances that may become due once your insurance carrier has decided what amount is your responsibility.

If you have questions about your coverage, you are also able reach out to us, and we will aid you with coordination of care.

If you do not have health insurance, you can still visit UCA. We offer competitive and affordable self-pay rates. Costs per visit may vary depending on your needs and diagnosis.

Feel free to walk in – once you've been evaluated by our physicians, we will let you know what costs you expect and will work with you in order to provide you the right treatment options, and on the path to recovery.

### About Urgent Care Aruba (UCA)

Established walk-in center since 2013. An alternative to the crowded ER, therefore delivering quick, reliable, and efficient solutions for any clinical challenge, big or small. Located at the Noord Medical Center, Noord 63.

### Services offered

Consultation & prescription,

Medication/ Vaccines/ IV Fluids Administration, Minor Surgical Procedures (Sutures/ Stitches), EKG (Electrocardiography). Foreign Body Removal, Nebulizer Treatment, Incision & Drainage, Ear Wax Removal (Ear Wash), Vaccinations, Ultrasound/ Radiology, Gynecology, Virtual Care, Telemedicine, Telehealth, Remote Care, Mobile Health Care Unit, COVID-19 PCR Testing conducted by our own clinical Laboratory Medlab also located at the Noord Medical Center, Noord 63.

### Contact

For more information, questions, or price contact telephone number: +297 5860448, WhatsApp: +297 5975549, email: info@urgentcare.aw, www.urgentcare.aw, like us on Facebook: Urgent Care Aruba and Instagram: @Arubadoctor.☐

**No Insurance? No problem.**



YOUR HEALTHCARE, OUR PRIORITY



## Monument Funds Aruba is turning 25

**ORANJESTAD** - 2020 was a year with challenges for Aruba but also for Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA). Many things changed due to the Covid-19 crisis and this was no exception for the Monument Funds. Despite the difficult situation the foundation was able to finalize some projects which are of great importance to maintaining the monuments of Aruba. After the shelter-in-place period, SMFA opted to continue with its planned projects in order to contribute to the economic development of Aruba.

### Projects

At the beginning of the year, SMFA celebrated the finalization of the restoration of Uncle Louis Store in San Nicolas. This monument dated from the early 50's has been completely renovated and serves now as the office of the Department of Nature & Environment. This is the third building renovated by SMFA in San Nicolas. This project is also taking part in the 'Pieter van Vollenhoven' prize in the Nether-

lands. This prize is awarded to an organization that takes the challenge of restoring a preserved monument in the Dutch Kingdom and giving it a new purpose or use. The prize has been postponed until next year, but we hope for this building to become the winner of this great prize in 2021.

SMFA also managed to finalized the restoration of the 'Forno di Kalki' in Rancho in July 2020. SMFA also signed an agreement with Foundation Rancho, which gives the foundation the greenlight to have this monument incorporated in their tours with the sole purpose of educating and bringing consciousness to the history of community of the Rancho.

Mid 2020 there were also public tenders for the maintenance of three buildings, Henriquez Pand at Weststraat 15, the California Lighthouse and the ex-Botica Aruba at Steenweg 19.

Continued on Page 9



## MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED



**Earn DOUBLE POINTS  
all day long!**

Use your Players' Club card to play our slots  
and we'll DOUBLE your points!

**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 11pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47  
583.5000 | [casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail  
& Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa  
Services, Souvenirs and more.

**Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins**

**Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe**

**Shalom Body & Soul Spa**

**Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood**

## Monument Funds Aruba is turning 25

Continued from page 8

The maintenance work of the latter was initiated in August 2020, and is being executed by the contractor Van Kessel Havenbouw NV.

The restoration of this building is only for the facade. As soon as SMFA obtains an interested party in renting this building, they will move into the 2nd phase of the restaurant based on the needs of the renter.

For the building at Weststraat 15, better known as 'Casita Geel' (yellow house) maintenance has been conducted and the inside of the building had been adapted according to its new renter which is Patio 15, which will officially open in December 2020.

Another monument which got some restoration attention this year was Henriquez Pand at Schelpstraat in Oranjestad. The building had been completely painted from the exterior, the walls have been fixed and in the interior has been painted. The wooden balcony also has been completely restored.

The maintenance of the California Lighthouse will start in 2021.

### Consciousness, Education and Cooperation

Another important part of the tasks of SMFA is to bring awareness and education. At the beginning of the year, SMFA was visited by the De-

velopment of Curriculum of the Department of Teaching. This was part of the project 'monthly guest,' which gives opportunity to different organizations to get to know a little more of the works of SMFA.

A beautiful project conducted by the results of the 'monthly guest' was the installation of the stair lift at the town hall building. Platform for the Persons with Limitations held a meeting last year in which they informed of their desire to have more buildings accessible to the disabled and one of them is the town hall. SMFA did research based on this information and was able to make this a reality.

In October 2020 the 5th edition of Wiki Loves Monuments Aruba took place. A total of 742 photographers participated. Ten photographs were nominated to advance to the next round which is the international competition which will take place in January 2021.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, SMFA was not able to conduct lectures at schools as usual. However, SMFA was able to prepare an audiobook with the title 'Un Raton den Stadhuis' (A Mouse in the Town Hall) with the purpose to introduce the word 'monument' to the children between the ages of 4 -to-8. SMFA sent this audiobook to all elementary schools of Aruba. The audiobook is also available on the facebook

page Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba. International cooperation is very important in order for SMFA to comply with its works of maintaining Aruba's monuments. SMFA has a good relation with other colleagues from other Caribbean islands and the Netherlands.

At the beginning of the year Director of SMFA Anne Witsenburg visited different monuments with Minister Knops of the Netherlands to show him some of the most recent projects finalized by SMFA in San Nicolas such as Watertoren, Nicolaas Store and Uncle Louis Store and also visited the Forno di Kalki in Rancho.

Apart from this, SMFA together with Foundation BOEi of the Netherlands is conducting research on the water tanks at Kibaima, Balashi. This project will be subsidized by the Ministry of OCW of the Netherlands. Finalization of this research is scheduled for the first quarter of 2021. For this project SMFA is being assisted by interns of the SUS Ateliers di Hogeschool Rotterdam.

### 2021

2021 will be a great year for SMFA. The foundation will be celebrating 25 years of existence and is working on some projects to celebrate this with the entire community of Aruba. They are aware of the challenges 2021 will also bring, but with positivism and perseverance they will seek to preserve the past for the future! □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!  
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



## Caquetian inspired designs

Episode LXXXI -81

**ORANJESTAD - Native Americans of Aruba, from Caquetian original stock, were expert Ceramists and Potters. Their mastering of this art as a cult was cosmologically inspired, expressed throughout their techniques. This heritage was transmitted from generation to generation till the beginning of the 20th century.**

Etnia Nativa presents an anthropological approach to what we can call ancient Aruban natural relations using art in order to understand the indigenous aesthetic creation of island native expressions. It values the way in which the indigenous universe and its aesthetic production have been recorded throughout history, generating new artistic products. It discusses indigenous aesthetic conceptions, their connection to the natural environment, and how they influenced the processes of cultural interaction with Europeans. Finally, it focuses on ceramics as a key resource for the indigenous aesthetic expression, as a way of anthropological recovery of the precolonial creative production in connection with contemporary art inspired on native motives.

Aruba conserves an indigenous patrimonial legacy with strong aesthetic values.

The encounter of indigenous societies with the conquerors, amazed by the reality of a New World, had a convergence in a cultural confrontation where aesthetic and symbolic factors were part of it. Flowing to our time through history and archeology, to recover objects of knowledge and as components of new processes of artistic creation and a sense of belonging to an unique and separate group of people that has survived ages of suppression while using this same principals to claim and obtain a special status within the Dutch kingdom

From the anthropology of Art the artist from Etnia Nativa seeks inspiration in the Aruban heritage, thus offering a vision of ideals that guard and mobilize aesthetic creation in relation to the universe where it is expressed and worked on. A work of art comes from the conception and objectification of ideas by its creator, the artist capable of producing art as a human being and social being, he will never be able to separate himself from said condition awarded from the moment he is born and begins to relate with his environment and other individuals. Each work he produces is affected by his environment.

Those who participate in our cultural and interactive tour learn the management of the anthropological, historical and aesthetic categories. They also obtain knowledge of anthropology, art history and archeology of both Aruba and the Caribbean and of America as a whole. They also obtain information concerning recent research of the region, and a generalized comparative vision of indigenous cultures, iconography and aesthetic elements of island societies.

To get to know a little bit more regarding Aruba and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session. A mind opening revelation and entertaining island experience is awaiting you.

Mail us at [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com), our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.☐





# Holiday air travel surges despite dire health warnings

By **DAVID KOENIG**  
**AP Airlines Writer**

Nearly 1.2 million people passed through U.S. airports Sunday, the largest number since the pandemic gripped the country in March, despite pleas from health experts for Americans to stay home over Thanksgiving.

The Transportation Security Administration screened at least 1 million people on four of the last 10 days through Sunday. That's still half the crowd recorded last year at airports, when more than 2 million people were counted per day.

With new reported cases of coronavirus spiking across the country, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had issued a warning against Thanksgiving travel just a week before the holiday.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the U.S. has climbed to more than 160,000, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. Public-health experts believe others who are infected don't show signs of carrying the virus.

Previous holidays including Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day were fol-



In this Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020 file photo, a traveler wears a mask as she walks through Terminal 3 at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Associated Press

lowed by increases in new cases. David O'Connor, a virologist at the University of Wisconsin who has studied the role of travel in the pandemic, expects the same thing to happen after Thanksgiving and leading up to Christmas.

"Travel is going to be contributing to a bigger surge. What we see in the next couple weeks will tell us a lot about what will happen after Christmas," he said.

"We're in the midst of a catastrophe as it is. You don't need a surge for it to become horrible. The health care systems are already stretched."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious-disease expert, said Sunday that the U.S. could see "surge upon a surge" of coronavirus cases, and he does not expect guidelines advising against travel to be relaxed before Christmas.

It's unclear whether the pleas of experts like Fauci had any effect on travel and large gatherings at Thanksgiving. Some airlines reported a pullback in bookings as virus cases grew in the days before the holiday. Airlines say the risk of transmission during flights is very low if everyone on board wears a mask. Experts on epidemics say even if that is true, travelers can spread the virus once

they get off the plane.

Before the latest surge in infections, airlines had added more flights for Thanksgiving, hoping for the same kind of boost in travel they saw over the July 4 and Labor Day holidays. They ended up canceling some of those flights, however, and demand is expected to fall back in early December before another potential pick-up in travel around Christmas.

Over a 10-day period ending Sunday, TSA screened about 975,000 people a day on average. That's down 60% from a year ago, when more than 2.3 million people per day went through U.S. airports.

On Monday, JetBlue Airways said "booking trends remain volatile," and a recovery in travel demand will be uneven into next year.

JetBlue, the nation's sixth-largest airline, plans to fly only half its normal schedule in the fourth quarter and revenue will fall about 70% from the same period last year. Those are slightly deeper reductions in flying and revenue than the New York carrier had expected before the recent spike in infections. □

# GM rethinks planned stake in electric vehicle maker Nikola

**NEW YORK (AP)** — General Motors will not be taking a stake in the electric vehicle company Nikola, and the company said Monday that it was scuttling one of its marquee vehicles, an electric and hydrogen-powered pickup, after GM pulled technological support from the project. Shares of Nikola plunged 24%.

Nikola on Monday released updated terms between the companies for a supply agreement related to GM's fuel-cell system, replacing an agreement signed in September. That deal would have given GM an 11% stake in Nikola.

The early agreement would also have allowed Nikola to use GM's new battery electric truck underpinnings for its electric and hydrogen-

powered pickup called the Badger, and its fuel cell and battery technology as well. That is no longer part of the agreement, essentially gutting Nikola's plans for the Badger.

Nikola said Monday that it will begin refunding deposits made by customers who wanted first dibs on that pickup.

"In a nutshell, the signing of GM as a partner is a positive but ultimately no ownership/equity stake in Nikola and the billions of R&D potentially now off the table is a major negative blow to the Nikola story," said Wedbush analyst Dan Ives. "This went from a game changer deal for Nikola to a good supply partnership but nothing to write home about."

There were hints that the

partnership was going sideways in late September as a deadline for an binding agreement approached. GM said then that negotiations about its \$2 billion role were ongoing, sending shares of Nikola sliding.

That announcement came just days after Nikola founder and Chairman Trevor Milton resigned after Hindenburg Research, a company that's betting Nikola stock will drop, accused Nikola of fraud.

Hindenburg said Nikola's success was an "intricate fraud," including a video showing a truck rolling downhill to give the impression it was cruising on a highway, and stenciling the words "hydrogen electric" on the side of a vehicle that was actually powered by natural gas.



This Jan. 27, 2020, file photo shows a General Motors logo at the General Motors Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly plant in Hamtramck, Mich.

Associated Press

Nikola denies the allegations and called them misleading. The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Justice Department are reportedly investigating. On Monday, GM spokesman Jim Cain said the re-

vised agreement is more focused. He said the new memorandum of understanding will help Nikola produce its commercial trucks, and help GM commercialize its fuel cell technology. □



## First blood test to help diagnose Alzheimer's goes on sale



This Wednesday, July 22, 2020, photo provided by C2N Diagnostics shows equipment in a lab that analyzes blood samples at the company's facility in the Center for Emerging Technologies in St. Louis.

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**  
AP Chief Medical Writer

A company has started selling the first blood test to help diagnose Alzheimer's disease, a leap for the field that could make it much easier for people to learn whether they have dementia. It also raises concern about the accuracy and impact of such life-altering news.

Independent experts are leery because key test results have not been published and the test has not been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — it's being sold under more general rules for commercial labs. But they

agree that a simple test that can be done in a doctor's office has long been needed.

It might have spared Tammy Maida a decade of futile trips to doctors who chalked up her symptoms to depression, anxiety or menopause before a \$5,000 brain scan last year finally showed she had Alzheimer's.

"I now have an answer," said the 63-year-old former nurse from San Jose, California.

If a blood test had been available, "I might have been afraid of the results" but would have "jumped on that" to find out, she said.

More than 5 million people in the United States and millions more around the world have Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia. To be diagnosed with it, people must have symptoms such as memory loss plus evidence of a buildup of a protein called beta-amyloid in the brain. The best way now to mea-

sure the protein is a costly PET brain scan that usually is not covered by insurance. That means most people don't get one and are left wondering if their problems are due to normal aging, Alzheimer's or something else.

The blood test from C2N Diagnostics of St. Louis aims to fill that gap. The company's founders include Drs. David Holtzman and Randall Bateman of Washington University School of Medicine, who headed research that led to the test and are included on a patent that the St. Louis university licensed to C2N.

### ABOUT THE TEST

The test is not intended for general screening or for people without symptoms — it's aimed at people 60 and older who are having thinking problems and are being evaluated for Alzheimer's. It's not covered by insurance or Medicare; the company charges \$1,250 and offers discounts based on income. Only doctors can order the test

and results come within 10 days. It's sold in all but a few states in the U.S. and just was cleared for sale in Europe.

It measures two types of amyloid particles plus various forms of a protein that reveal whether someone has a gene that raises risk for the disease. These factors are combined in a formula that includes age, and patients are given a score suggesting low, medium or high likelihood of having amyloid buildup in the brain.

If the test puts them in the low category, "it's a strong reason to look for other things" besides Alzheimer's, Bateman said.

"There are a thousand things that can cause someone to be cognitively impaired," from vitamin deficiencies to medications, Holtzman said.

"I don't think this is any different than the testing we do now" except it's from a blood test rather than a brain scan, he said. "And those are not 100% accu-

rate either."

### ACCURACY CLAIMS

The company has not published any data on the test's accuracy, although the doctors have published on the amyloid research leading to the test. Company promotional materials cite results comparing the test to PET brain scans — the current gold standard — in 686 people, ages 60-91, with cognitive impairment or dementia.

If a PET scan showed amyloid buildup, the blood test also gave a high probability of that in 92% of cases and missed 8% of them, said the company's chief executive, Dr. Joel Braunstein.

If the PET scan was negative, the blood test ruled out amyloid buildup 77% of the time. The other 23% got a positive result, but that doesn't necessarily mean the blood test was incorrect, Braunstein said. The published research suggests it may detect amyloid buildup before it's evident on scans.

Braunstein said the company will seek FDA approval and the agency has given it a designation that can speed review. He said study results would be published, and he defended the decision to start selling the test now.

"Should we be holding that technology back when it could have a big impact on patient care?" he asked.

### WHAT OTHERS SAY

Dr. Eliezer Masliah, neuroscience chief at the U.S. National Institute on Aging, said the government funded some of the work leading to the test as well as other kinds of blood tests.

"I would be cautious about interpreting any of these things," he said of the company's claims. "We're encouraged, we're interested, we're funding this work but we want to see results." Heather Snyder of the Alzheimer's Association said it won't endorse a test without FDA approval. The test also needs to be studied in larger and diverse populations.

"It's not quite clear how accurate or generalizable the results are," she said. □





# Dictionary companies choose same word of the year: pandemic

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In the land of lexicography, out of the whole of the English language, 2020's word of the year is a vocabulary of one. For the first time, two dictionary companies on Monday — Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com — declared the same word as their tops: pandemic. A third couldn't settle on just one so issued a 16-page report instead along the same lines, noting that a world of once-specialized terms entered the mainstream during the COVID-19 crisis.

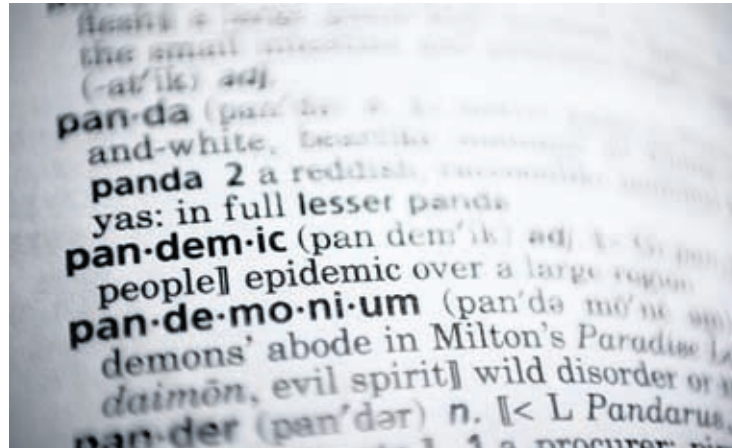
The year, Oxford Languages said in the report last week, "brought a new immediacy and urgency to the role of the lexicographer. In almost real-time, lexicographers were able to monitor and analyze seismic shifts in language data and precipitous frequency rises in new coinages."

Its Oxford English Dictionary and others found themselves madly updating well beyond routine schedules to keep up. Such publication updates are usually planned far in advance. Because the coronavirus pandemic brought on gargantuan language changes, according to Oxford Languages, "2020 is a year which cannot be neatly

accommodated in one single 'word of the year.'"

Not so at Merriam-Webster and Dictionary.com, both of which also noted enormous shifts toward many other related words but announced just one nonetheless. Pandemic "probably isn't a big shock," Peter Sokolowski, editor at large for Merriam-Webster, told The Associated Press ahead of the announcement.

"Often the big news story has a technical word that's associated with it and in this case, the word pandemic is not just technical



In this Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020, photo the word pandemic is displayed in a dictionary in Washington.

Associated Press

but has become general. It's probably the word by which we'll refer to this period in the future," he said. John Kelly, senior research editor at Dictionary.com, told the AP before breaking the news that searches on the site for pandemic spiked more than 13,500%

on March 11, the day the World Health Organization declared an outbreak of the novel coronavirus a global health emergency. □

## SUDOKU

		7	9			3		
6			1					
		3		5	7		4	
5				1	8		7	
		8				6		
	6		3	7				5
	8		4	3		9		
					2			7
		6			1	2		

Solution on Page 14

### Marriott Surf Club

2 x 2 BR Ocean view gold  
Season \$ 10,000 both weeks  
More info call: (297)630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### La Cabana Beach Casino

2 BR WK 48 Room # 101 E  
Ocean Front \$ 12,500  
Studio week 49 room #414 B  
Pool/Ocean View \$ 5000  
More info call:(297)630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### Dutch Village

1 BR WK # 46 room# 71  
12 weeks remain \$ 5000  
2 BR WK 47 Room # 103  
17 weeks full acceleration  
Expire 2026 \$ 6500



### Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

### Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

### Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

### Editors

Richard Brooks

### Sales

Linda Reijnders  
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)  
Sulaika Croes

### Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

### Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

### Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto  
Pilar Flores

### Columnists

Anthony Croes  
Joris Zantvoort  
Shanella Pantophlet  
Steve Frances  
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22  
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com  
W: www.arubatoday.com  
@arubatoday



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Cruz Tel. 585 6890

#### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

### General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like  
us on  
Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/



## Fact or fiction? UK govt says 'The Crown' should be clear

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's culture minister thinks the Netflix TV series "The Crown" should come with a disclaimer: It's a work of fiction.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden weighed in amid criticism of the historical liberties taken by the drama about the British royal family.

"It's a beautifully produced work of fiction. So as with other TV productions, Netflix should be very clear at the beginning it is just that," Dowden told the Mail on Sunday newspaper. "Without this, I fear a generation of viewers who did not live through these events may mistake fiction for fact."

Dowden is expected to write to Netflix this week to express his view. Netflix did not immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Questions of historical fidelity were not a major issue during earlier seasons of the show, which debuted in 2016 and traces the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II, which began in 1952.

But the current fourth season is set in the 1980s, a divisive decade that many Britons remember vividly.



In this file photo dated Friday, Nov. 20, 2020, a man wearing a face mask walks past a billboard advertising 'The Crown' television series about Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the royal family, during England's second coronavirus lockdown, in London.

Associated Press

Characters include Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose 11-year tenure transformed and divided Britain, and the late Princess Diana, whose death in a car crash in 1997 traumatized the nation.

Former royal press secretary Dickie Arbiter has called the series a "hatchet job" on Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, and his first wife Diana. The troubled relationship of the

couple, played by Josh O'Connor and Emma Corrin, is a major storyline in the series. Diana's brother, Charles Spencer, has also said the show should carry a notice that "this isn't true but it is based around some real events."

"I worry people do think that this is gospel and that's unfair," he told broadcaster ITV.

Some Conservatives have criticized the program's de-

piction of Thatcher, played by Gillian Anderson. Britain's first female prime minister, who died in 2013, is portrayed as clashing with Olivia Colman's Elizabeth to an extent that some say is exaggerated.

"The Crown" creator Peter Morgan, whose work also includes recent-history dramas "The Queen" and "Frost/Nixon," has defended his work, saying it is thoroughly researched and true in spirit.

In a 2017 discussion of "The Crown," Morgan said "you sometimes have to forsake accuracy, but you must never forsake truth."

Steven Fielding, a professor of political history at the University of Nottingham, said the suggestion that "The Crown" carry a disclaimer was "reasonable and yet pointless."

"It invariably doesn't have an effect," he said. "There are studies that show that people believe fiction when it's presented as fact — even if you tell them it's not fact."

Fielding said it was no surprise that Charles and his allies were annoyed with the heir to the throne's depiction as "a bit of an idiot." But he said making a fuss about it only amplifies the attention.

Historians are used to railing at inaccuracies in dramas such as the Academy Award-winning "Darkest Hour," which included an invented scene of Winston Churchill meeting ordinary Londoners on an Underground Tube train during World War II.

"Mixing historical fact and fiction has been around since Shakespeare. This is not new to films, it's not new to TV," said Fielding, co-author of "The Churchill Myths," which examines Britain's wartime leader in popular culture.

"I don't recall the culture secretary complaining about the ridiculous presentation of Winston Churchill in 'Darkest Hour,'" he said. "Because it went with the myth, with the idea of Churchill the hero, nobody complained."

"Nobody's bothered if fact and fiction are all mangled up, so long as it's saying nice things," he added. □

### SOLUTION SUDOKU

4	8	2	1	6	7	9	5	3
7	3	5	2	9	8	4	1	6
1	9	6	5	3	4	2	8	7
5	6	8	4	7	3	1	9	2
3	1	9	6	2	5	8	7	4
2	4	7	8	1	9	6	3	5
9	4	1	7	5	2	3	6	8
6	2	7	3	8	1	5	4	9
8	5	3	9	4	6	7	2	1

Puzzle on Page 13

## Testing new release strategy, 'The Croods' opens to \$14.2M



This image released by DreamWorks shows a scene from the animated film "The Croods: A New Age."

Associated Press

By JAKE COYLE  
AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Testing a novel release strategy, Universal Pictures' animated sequel "The Croods: A New Age" had one of the best opening weekends of the pandemic, grossing \$14.2 million over the five-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Whereas new releases

have traditionally lasted around 90 days in theaters, Universal has mapped out a shorted theatrical window in deals with major chains AMC and Cinemark that gives the studio the option to move new releases to premium video-on-demand after just 17 days. "The Croods: A New Age" is expected to shift to the home before Christmas for a \$20 rental.

For an industry reeling from the pandemic, it's part of wider changes seeping through the industry.

"The Croods: A New Age" grossed \$9.7 million Friday-Sunday, which rivals even the weekend start for "Tenet" in September. Warner Bros. didn't break down the three-day weekend figures for "Tenet," which began preview screenings in the U.S. on a Monday, but said it grossed \$20.2 million in its first week in U.S. theaters plus its first two weeks in Canadian theaters.

While the opening for "The Croods: A New Age" was something Hollywood hadn't seen in months — a movie that outperformed expectations — it was still only a sliver of what the

industry usually sees in the typically busy holiday movie season. Last year, "Frozen II" led all films over the five-day Thanksgiving weekend with \$123.7 million, while "Knives Out" scored \$41.7 million.

Since "Tenet" opened, most larger releases have been postponed or detoured to digital, sometimes while still playing in theaters overseas. The Walt Disney Co. steered "Mulan" to a premium purchase on Disney+, but opened in China and elsewhere. Next month, Warner Bros. will release "Wonder Woman 1984" simultaneously on HBO Max and in theaters. Disney has uprooted the Pixar animation "Soul" to its streaming platform. □



# MLB launches wood-bat league for draft-eligible prospects

By **JAKE SEINER**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Major League Baseball is creating a minor league for top eligible prospects leading to the summer draft.

The wood-bat MLB Draft League is launching with five teams and could add a sixth, MLB said Monday. Teams will play a 68-game regular season that includes an All-Star break coinciding with the draft in early July. MLB also announced that the eight-team Pioneer League will lose its affiliated status and become an independent "Partner League." MLB has pledged to provide initial funding for operating expenses and will install scouting technology at league stadiums. The Pioneer League spans Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Utah and had been a Rookie-level affiliated league since 1964.

Teams in the MLB Draft League are going to communities that lost franchises when MLB began shrinking the affiliated minor leagues from 160 to 120 teams. The reduction this offseason followed the expiration of the Professional Baseball Agreement, which governed the relationship between the majors and minors. MLB has planned to eliminate the separate governing body of minor



In this June 20, 2006, file photo, teams line up along the baselines during the playing of the national anthem before the first game, in the inaugural season, of the State College Spike baseball team in State College, Pa.

league baseball.

The founding members of the MLB Draft League are located in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New Jersey: the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, the State College Spikes, the Trenton Thunder, the West Virginia Black Bears and the Williamsport Crosscutters. MLB said it is in discussions with a sixth team that it hopes to announce soon.

The season will run roughly from late May through mid-August, broken into halves. The first half will be a showcase for draft-eligible high

school, college and junior college players. Following a multiday break for the draft, rosters will be restocked with the best players passed over by MLB teams who are still interested in signing.

The start of the season will overlap with the College World Series, meaning some top players won't be able to join until after opening day, similar to other college summer leagues like the Cape Cod League.

MLB's push to shrink the minors had drawn criticism from many in minor league

communities, including politicians. A trio of U.S. senators — Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia — praised the MLB Draft League as a way to keep high-level baseball in their communities.

"I'm glad that MLB listened," Brown said. "The formation of the MLB Draft League is good news for baseball and for fans in the (Mahoning) Valley, who will get to continue to see high-level prospects in their own backyard and rally around

the Scrappers again soon." New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy announced the "Trenton Thunder is saved" during a COVID-19 press briefing Monday.

The draft league will be operated by Prep Baseball Report — a scouting, events and media organization focused on youth ball — and former Cape Cod League coach Kerrick Jackson has been appointed president. MLB said in a statement that players will "receive unprecedented visibility to MLB club scouts through both in-person observation and state-of-the-art scouting technology, and educational programming designed to prepare them for careers as professional athletes."

Morgan Sword, MLB's executive vice president of baseball economics and operations, called the venture a "one-of-a-kind league" that will allow fans to "see top prospects and future big-league stars in their hometowns." He added that MLB is committed to "preserving and growing baseball in communities around the United States." MLB announced in September that the Appalachian League, formerly a Rookie-level affiliated league, would be transformed into a wood-bat college summer league. □

## Bou scores twice, New England reaches MLS Eastern finals

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Gustavo Bou scored his second goal of the game in the 86th minute to help the New England Revolution beat 10-man Orlando City 3-1 on Sunday in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Eighth-seeded New England will play at Columbus next Sunday for a spot in the MLS Cup final. The Crew advanced Sunday night with a 2-0 overtime victory over visiting Nashville. Fourth-seeded Orlando City had a chance to tie it at 2 in the 74th minute, but Matt Turner stopped Nani on a penalty kick. Twelve minutes later, Bou ran to Carles Gil's through ball and sent it between goalkeeper Brian Rowe's legs for a 3-1 lead. The teams combined for three goals in the opening 33 minutes. Gil opened the scoring in the 17th minute on a penalty kick after Uri Rosell was taken down at the edge of the

box. Bou gave New England a 2-0 lead in the 26th off a rebound off the post, and Orlando City scored in the 33rd when Júnior Urso's capitalized on a loose ball in front of the goal. Orlando City's Mauricio Pereyra was sent off in the 60th for a studs-up tackle of Matt Polster.

**Crew 2, Nashville SC 0, OT**  
**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Pedros Santos and Gyasi Zardes scored three minutes apart early in overtime and the Columbus Crew beat expansion Nashville SC 2-0 on Sunday to advance to the MLS Eastern Conference finals.

The third-seeded Crew will host eighth-seeded New England next Sunday for a spot in the MLS Cup. The Revolution beat Orlando City 3-1 earlier Sunday.

Santos scored in the 99th minute off a feed from Zardes near the center of the net, ending seventh-seeded



New England Revolution forward Gustavo Bou (7) scores a goal past Orlando City goalkeeper Brian Rowe, bottom, during the first half of an MLS playoff soccer match, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Nashville's shutout streak at more than 200 minutes. Zardes struck in the 102nd on a breakaway off Luis Díaz's deft lead pass. □



# On Football: Getting to January a major challenge for NFL

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

In every NFL season, there are losing teams who hit December and just want to get to January, get the schedule done and go home.

In 2020, it's all about the league itself getting to January during a pandemic that daily is becoming harder to deal with.

If Week 12 is a harbinger, NFL executives will be doing more scrambling than Lamar Jackson and Kyler Murray. They've already twice postponed the Thanksgiving night showcase game between Baltimore and Pittsburgh, and it's still in jeopardy for Tuesday night with more than 20 Ravens on the COVID-19 list. Denver, thanks to protocol violations by its quarterbacks, started an undrafted rookie wide receiver at the critical position and, unsurprisingly, barely moved the ball.

There also were hefty fines to the Saints and Patriots for not being as diligent about the coronavirus protocols as they need to be.

The NFL deserves praise for getting this far with minimal disruptions compared to what we are seeing in the college game. Yet there is a foreboding environment right now.

Teams have been ordered to steer clear of their facilities on Monday and Tues-



In this Sept. 21, 2020 file photo, New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton, right, speak with quarterback Drew Brees (9) during the first half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

day as the pandemic rages across the country. Pro football tries to soldier on, but for how long?

"I think we have to really consider a bubble," says Bill Cowher, the Hall of Fame-bound coach and now a CBS Sports analyst. "When you think about the country right now, we're going through a second wave. You have to be flexible in your thinking."

"We're talking about shutting down facilities. We're talking about teams that may not be able to practice all week. I start to think

about teams later on as we go through this, that they get out of the playoffs. They become more reckless and careless with their actions off the field."

"I think right now from a competitive and balance standpoint that's out there, and from a safety standpoint that's out there, go to a bubble. Go to a city right now, identify a hotel, take all the staff members, put them in there, and make sure from that point they bus to and from practice. They fly to and from games. It worked in hockey. It

worked in basketball. I think the time is now. Protect the integrity of the game. It's the fairest thing to do. And it's the safest thing to do."

In some ways it also is the most difficult thing to do. Don't think that the NFL hasn't discussed the bubble idea, though it has concentrated on creating one or more for the playoffs. Doing so for the final six weeks of the schedule, it's a logistical challenge tantamount to scoring on the 1985 Bears or 2000 Ravens. As the number of COVID-19 cases rises across the

league, the potential for more postponements — even cancellations or forfeits, neither of which the NFL truly wants to ponder — also rises.

One option that seems more logical by the day is for the league to create a Week 18 for the second weekend in January. With outbreaks within teams a higher likelihood than ever — and having a week to play with because the bye between the conference championships and the Super Bowl could be eliminated — instituting a Week 18 has its merits.

Certainly it would lessen the chance of mismatches such as what happened Sunday in Denver, a 31-3 Saints romp that never was in doubt; is that the way NFL games should be? And it could help avoid what could be a similar lopsided contest in Pittsburgh on Tuesday night, should that game be played.

"I don't think weird is the right word," said Saints coach Sean Payton, whose team was fined \$500,000 and docked a seventh-round draft pick for repeatedly defying NFL protocols. "Look, everything about this season's unusual. So, we kind of tune out the things we can't control. ... And then what it is we can control? And let's find a way to get our next W." □

## Colts punter schedules surgery to remove cancerous tumor



Indianapolis Colts kicker Rodrigo Blankenship (3) celebrates kicking a field goal with Rigoberto Sanchez (8) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020, in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts punter Rigoberto Sanchez says he will have surgery Tuesday to have a cancerous tumor removed.**

Sanchez made Monday's announcement in an Instagram post. He did not provide details about the diagnosis or how much time he might miss — only that doctors found the tumor before it spread to the rest of his body.

"I know that it will not be an easy bump on the road, but I know I have my amazing wife supporting me along with family, coaches, and friends

reaching out," he wrote. "Unfortunately, there are things you can't control in life and this is one of them. No plans or preparation would have gotten me ready for this kind of adversity, but like I told my wife, we can't flinch. Keep striving to come back stronger than ever. Makes me sick that I'll have to miss some time playing beside my brothers, but I know they will hold it down."

Sanchez averaged 50.8 yards on five punts in Sunday's 45-26 loss to Tennessee, netting 40.8 yards on those kicks, but he did not kick off — something he's done since he entered the

league as an undrafted rookie in 2017. Instead, the kickoff duties were performed by rookie kicker Rodrigo Blankenship.

Following the game, coach Frank Reich explained the change by saying Sanchez was dealing with a medical condition that required further evaluation and he was "proud" Sanchez performed as well as he did given the circumstances. Reich is scheduled to speak with reporters later Monday.

Sanchez is 11th in the league at 47.2 yards per punt with a net average of 41.2 yards. □